

What is claimed is:

1. A multifocal lens system for digital cameras comprising:

(a) a wide-angle lens which is placed in front of an image sensor (CCD, C-MOS or the like) having the center of the image sensor on the optic axis of the wide-angle lens so that the wide-angle lens can be focused on the image sensor;

(b) a telephoto lens which is placed alongside the wide-angle lens;

(c) a parallelogram prism (rhombic prism) which is made of glass, plastic or the like and is placed and movable from side to side at the rear of said lenses and through which the telephoto lens can be focused on the image sensor when said prism is placed in front of the sensor and at the rear of the wide-angle lens covering the sensing area of the image sensor and shutting the light through the wide-angle lens; and

(d) a means of moving the prism from the rear of the wide-angle lens not to let the prism cover the image sensing area of the image sensor and to let the wide-angle lens focus on the image sensor or moving the prism onto the image sensor and to the rear of the wide-angle lens so that the light through the wide-angle lens can be shut off and the telephoto lens can be focused on the image sensor through the prism.

2. A multifocal lens system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the prism position can be changed by sliding the prism horizontally from the rear of the

wide-angle lens toward the rear of the telephoto lens to set the multifocal lens system at the wide-angle image capturing position or from the wide-angle
5 image capturing position onto the image sensor to set the system at the telephoto image capturing position.

3. A multifocal lens system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the two outer inclined surfaces of the parallelogram prism (rhombic prism) are coated by aluminum metalizing or that sort of vacuum deposition so that the inner surfaces of the inclined surfaces can be used as mirrors.

4. A multifocal lens system comprising:

(a) a wide-angle lens which is placed in front of an image sensor (CCD, C-MOS or the like) having the center of the image sensor on the optic axis of the wide-angle lens so that the wide-angle lens can be focused on the image
5 sensor;

(b) a telephoto lens which is placed alongside the wide-angle lens;

(c) two triangular prisms which are made of glass, plastic or the like and placed and movable together from side to side at the rear of said lenses and through which the telephoto lens can be focused on the image sensor when one of
10 said prisms is placed in front of the sensor and at the rear of the wide-angle lens covering the sensing area of the image sensor and shutting the light through the wide-angle lens;

(d) a means of moving the prisms from the rear of the wide-angle lens not to let the prisms cover the image sensing area of the image sensor and to let the

- 15 wide-angle lens focus on the image sensor or moving the prisms onto the
image sensor and to the rear of the wide-angle lens so that the light through
the wide-angle lens can be shut off and the telephoto lens can be focused on
the image sensor through the prisms.
- 5 5. A multifocal lens system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the positions of the
prisms can be changed by sliding the prisms horizontally from the rear of the
wide-angle lens toward the rear of the telephoto lens to set the multifocal lens
system at the wide-angle image capturing position or from the wide-angle
image capturing position onto the image sensor to set the system at the
telephoto image capturing position.
6. A multifocal lens system as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the outer inclined
surface of each prism is coated by aluminum metalizing or that sort of
vacuum deposition so that the outer side of the inclined surface of each prism
can be used as a mirror.